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Advertisement

FROM

PARNASSUS.

A POLLO on the First of June 1710, at the Desire of the Royal College of Physicians at Edinburgh, summon'd Dr. David Mitchell, one of their present Censors, to Answer to this Complaint, given in to Apollo: The Tenor of which follows.

THAT whereas Dr. DAVID MITCHELL (the present Censor of the College) Physician in Edinburgh, had sworn Fealty to the College; yet he, without the Advice and Consent of the said College, had, in Contempt of their Authority, taken upon him to publish in the Scots-Post-Man, or New Edinburgh Gazette from May 30. to June 1. 1710. an Advertisement, That he will give any Person a Serious Advice for Half-a-Crown, and take from none that comes to his House above that Sum: And that these that live at a greater Distance, sending a Letter of Information, shall have a Letter in return with Prescriptions, and Directions how to Use them; for which they may send in a Crown. Which cannot be constructed otherwise, than that it is a Mountebank Contrivance to enbaunce and monopolize to himself the Practice of Physick in this City and the Country about it; and is both a Breach of the Promissory Engagement he made to the College for his good Behaviour, as he should be reputed an Honest Man and a good Christian: And this Deed of his, is a great Injury done to all and sundry of the College. And because the College could not be both Judge and Party;

therefore they humbly desire Apollo to pronounce Judgment in the Cause, and to appoint and ordain such Rates, as may be most for the Honour of Ingenious and Generous Physicians of good Birth and Education, and for the true Interest and Safety of the Patients, and to the Confusion of Tartuffs, Pedants, and Charletans, as it is most just and reasonable it should be.

APOLLO, taking the said Complaint to Consideration, found it just, that every Artist should value his own Work, which ow'd it's Value to the Fineness of the Art which appeared in it; and that none ought to quarrel the Rate he put on it, when it was answerable to the Benefit got by the Advice: And that not only the People, but the chiefest Officers also, ought to give Obedience according to that Observation, *Soli Medici, ipsi Imperatoribus imperant*, That Physicians, and they only, Command those who Command all others. As likewise he granted that Maxim, *Accipis a Medico Rem inestimabilem, Vitam & Valetudinem bonam, Operis non Beneficij Mercedem refert*, That the Life and Health Physicians give, is so much to be valued, that the greatest Reward, is but an Acknowledgment for their Pains, but no just Recompence of the Benefit is got by them.

Notwithstanding of all this, whatever may be demanded by a Physician, that is not a Member of the Society where the Cure is performed; yet in all Societies, *Salus populi suprema lex*, The Well of the Incorporation is to be prefer'd to the Advantage of any Member of it: And the Rewards of the Physicians ought to be such as answer their Dignity and their Merits; and are Honourable to the Patients also, especially where, by publick Authority, a College is established, with Power to make Laws for the Regulating and Governing in the Place. In this Case the Rating of the Consultations and the Visits of the Physicians, is to be done either by the College, or else by the Parliament: And if the College should undertake to Rate the Fees of those in the District Subjected to it; in that Case it is fit, that their Statutes thereanent be Authorized by the Parliament, the Sanction whereof is Obligatory upon all the Leiges; and the Dues of Physicians appointed by Statute may be recovered by Suits at Law. So, APOLLO found, that as one Last is not fit to make all Shoes by, no more can one Rate be set upon the Advice and Pains of all and every Physician; because, *Seris venit usus ab annis*, It is Experience that makes the Art of Physick; and that is not gotten on a sudden, but by long Practice; and therefore more regard is to be had to an old, than to a young Physician in the appointing of Rates, which are to be more or less, as the Physicians are more or less Skilful; As they were better or worse Educated and trained up in all good Learning; As they are more or less Cautious and Circumspect in their Practice, and at more or less Pains in the Cure; As the Disease was short or long, contagious or not, and more or less dangerous; And many other Circumstances are to be considered, when Rates are appointed of the Fees. The Consultation is to be at one Rate, the Visit at another, and the Quality of the Patient to be regarded: The Poor is to have Advice gratis, the Rich is to pay according to their Condition, and the Noble according to their Degree: These upon the Place, are to pay less; these in the Country, according to the Distance, and the Time the Physician is absent from the Place of his Residence; and the Season of the Year, and the Quality of the Weather are to be considered.

Upon which Accounts *APOLLO* found the Complaint well instructed, and decerned the College, by vertue of their Rights and Privileges, to put off the said Doctor *Mitchel* from the Office of *Censor*, and to Censure him as he deserves in a full Meeting of the Collegues called for that purpose; because of his Contempt of their Authority and Violation of his Fealty and Breach of the due Correspondence should be among the Collegues, and for his manifest Injustice in making no Distinction of Circumstances, but rating equally all sort of Persons in all Cases obvious.

And upon due Deliberation *APOLLO* did statute and ordain the following Regards to be had in the Rating of *Physicians* for the future.

I.

That these who, by want of Experience and Skill, shall be found to have acted contrary to right Reason, and true Method, to the hurt of their *Patients*, shall have no Claim for a Sallary from their *Patients*; because, *Qui luunt in corpore, non debent solvere in Aere*; These who have been ill treated and suffered thereby, ought not to lose their Money likewise.

II.

In claiming of a Rate as due, no regard shall be had, to these who value themselves, for being strict Professors and great Doctors; to Trimmers with any Faction or Party; to Caballers with *Physicians*, *Chirurgeons* and *Apothecaries* to get *Patients*, but only to the Skill and Diligence of him who claims it.

III.

That these of a short Standing in the Practice of *Physick*, shall have a less Fee, and these of longer Standing a greater.

IV.

That in regard that *Physicians* give Advice to the Poor gratis, the Noble and Rich shall pay according to their Condition and Degree.

V.

That where the Disease of the *Patient* is Complex, there shall be Double or Triple Fees for a Consultation.

VI.

That when the *Physician* is raised in the Night to see the *Patient*, the Fee shall be Tripled.

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That if the Disease be Contagious, or otherwise Dangerous, the Fees shall be the greater.

VIII.

That the *Physician* who adviseth the Friends of the *Patient* of the Danger of the Disease, especially if he forewarn them that the *Patient* will die, that he may in time Regulate his Affairs, shall have a double Fee.

IX.

That the *Physician* who shall in a dangerous Disease, affirm, That there is no Hazard, shall not have Title to any Fee for his Attendance.

X.

That the *Physician* who prescribeth nothing, but what is safe, and cureth the *Patient*, shall have a greater Fee; and that he, *Qui facit experimenta per mortes*, Who ventures to learn Skill by what is often the Cause of the Death of the *Patient*, shall have no Claim for a Fee.

XI.

That the *Physician* who cures his *Patient* by Diet and Exercise, without Medicin, shall have a greater Fee.

XII.

APOLLO interposed his Authority to these Ordinances, and did recommend to the College, the Addressing the Parliament, to modify the Rates in the respective Circumstances, and cases.

XIII.

Because the Pannel pretends to give in all Diseases his *Serious* Advice, *APOLLO* ordains, That the Advice be drawn from *Hippocrates's* Rules and Aphorisms, and not consist in Hypocritical Verses and Psalms, which Charmers Use.

IV.

Edinburgh, Printed by JAMES WATSON, and Sold at his Shop next Door to the Edinburgh-Lyon, opposite to the Luken-Booths. 1710.

